

Timeline

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| <p>1898 Born 3 January at Spencer Crescent, Camberwell, Victoria. Lived with parents in lighthouse Cape Nelson</p> <p>1899 1 May moved with parents to Camberwell</p> <p>1900 8 July moved with parents to lighthouse Point Lonsdale</p> <p>1903 13 January moved with parents to lighthouse Cape Nelson</p> <p>1906 19 May moved with parents to lighthouse Split Point</p> <p>1908 8 January moved with parents to lighthouse Wilsons Promontory</p> <p>1910 8 April moved with parents to lighthouse Point Lonsdale</p> <p>1912 17 April moved with parents to lighthouse Cape Schanck; 9 November passed Commonwealth Public Service exam No. 397 for appointment as Telegraph Messenger, but weak in arithmetic</p> <p>1913 5 April passed Commonwealth Public Service exam No. 445 for appointment as Telegraph Messenger, but still weak in arithmetic; 2 August passed Commonwealth Public Service exam No. 468 for appointment as Telegraph Messenger, but <i>still</i> weak in arithmetic</p> <p>1914 2 May passed Commonwealth Public Service exam No. 506 for appointment as Telegraph Messenger; June began first job with PMG as telegraph messenger at Dromana</p> <p>1916 Transferred to Flinders then to Woomelang then back to Flinders</p> <p>1917 25 January awarded provisional Certificate of Competency in Radiotelegraphy (RAN) number 41; 12 May – 21 December served aboard HMAS <i>Wiltshire</i> as Wireless Operator; 22 December engaged in RAN as CPO Telegraphist at HMAS <i>Cerberus</i></p> <p>1918 25 January granted RAN provisional certificate of proficiency in radiotelegraphy; 17 March left <i>Cerberus</i>; 18 March appointed as CPO Telegraphist on Samarai Island, territory of Papua, New Guinea</p> <p>1919 Samarai</p> <p>1920 28 October transferred from RAN to PMG Department, still on Samarai</p> | <p>1921 April engaged to Cecily Woodfull Pescott</p> <p>1922 12 July awarded WWI Mercantile Marine Medal; Oct sent to Willis Island meteorological station, 7 months</p> <p>1923 May, returned from Willis Is; 14 May married Cecily; 6 September gained Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy; Dec appointed to 2FC Sydney</p> <p>1924 Assistant engineer, 3LO Melbourne; September helped AWA with broadcast; 9 October son Richard William Stevens born</p> <p>1925 May appointed to 4QG Brisbane; 27 July opened 4QG as Chief Engineer in 3 weeks</p> <p>1928 15 August appointed to RAN Volunteer Reserve; 28 December awarded WWI British War Medal</p> <p>1929 10 February son George Woodfull Stevens born; 21 April, with Lester Brain, found lost aircraft <i>Kookaburra</i>; commenced flying lessons</p> <p>1930 17 May, qualified as a private pilot at Queensland Aero Club; 20 November awarded Commercial Operator's Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy and Radiotelephony First Class</p> <p>1931 June joined King and King Ltd in charge of radio installations; Dec joined 4BH</p> <p>1934 13 July Queensland Aero Club licence; commercial pilot's licence; radio operator's licence; navigation licence; December commenced employment with Qantas as Senior First Officer and Wireless Operator Mechanic</p> <p>1935 22 Feb, first Australian air mail service (Darwin–Singapore) on 10-seater DH86 (with Sir Edward Compston as passenger); 26 Feb, first return journey (Singapore–Darwin).</p> <p>1936 1 June appointed reserve Pilot Officer RAAF</p> <p>1937 20 July resigned from Qantas; 16 August Radio Inspector, Department of Civil Aviation (DCA)</p> <p>1940 7 February permanent appointment as Radio Inspector, 3rd Div, DCA, Archerfield</p> <p>1941 28 August; USA non-resident visa granted; 17 October crew member with Lester Brain and P. G. Taylor flying Catalina flying boat from San Diego, California, to Sydney</p> <p>1942 23 July appointed Flight Officer with RAAF; served in Port Moresby</p> <p>1943 served in Brisbane</p> |
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- 1944 2 May divorced Cecily; 1 July promoted to Flight Lieutenant, RAAF; served in Townsville, Mer-
auke, Horn Island, Cairns, Milne Bay, Goode-
nough, Port Moresby
- 1945 7 April married Nancy Alumward Sim; served in
Morotai and Melbourne; 25 September released
from RAAF and returned to DCA
- 1947 27 July son Ian Bruce Stevens born
- 1948 7 December promoted to Superintendent, Air-
ways Operations, Queensland District
- 1955 27 September Temporary transfer to HO
Sydney as Superintendent of Communications
(DCA)
- 1963 1 January awarded MBE; 1 January retired from
DCA
- 1964 Joined RACV in the Touring Records Section
- 1966 5 October died of a second heart attack

Notable achievements

1. Holder of the first-issued 1st Class Aircraft
Operator's Certificate of Proficiency in Wireless
Telegraphy.
2. Opened broadcast station 4QG as Chief Engi-
neer with J. W. Robinson as Manager in 1923.
3. Found the missing aircraft the *Kookaburra* on 21
April 1929 in plane piloted by Lester Brain.
4. Crew member on the delivery flight of a PBY5
Consolidated Flying Boat A24-18 AFS, which
left Honolulu on 17 October 1941 on its
delivery flight, with Lester Brain as commander
and P. G. Taylor as navigator. The aircraft flew
non-stop from Suva to Sydney (source: *Qantas
Aeriana 1920–1954* by E. A. Crome).
5. Co-pilot on the DH86 service to Singapore,
where Qantas services linked up with Imperial
Airways. He mentioned a visit to the cockpit
by Captain Patrick (of Patrick Steamship Pty,
Brisbane), who observed that although he had
lived an adventurous life at sea, including voyages
around Cape Horn, flying from Singapore to
Darwin was an even greater adventure.